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TRADE AND DEVELOPMENT BOARD
Working Party on the Medium-term Plan
and the Programme Budget
Twenty-first session
Geneva, 31 August 1992
Agenda items 3, 4, and 5

REVIEW OF DRAFT REVISIONS TO THE UNCTAD SECTIONS OF THE UNITED NATIONS MEDIUM-TERM PLAN FOR 1992-1997

REVIEW OF THE TECHNICAL COOPERATION ACTIVITIES OF UNCTAD AND THEIR FINANCING

REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL OF UNCTAD ON THE WORK OF THE SECRETARIAT ON PROGRAMME EVALUATION

Draft agreed conclusions

The Working Party on the Medium-term Plan and the Programme Budget,

A. Revisions to the medium-term plan

1. Having reviewed the proposed revisions to the UNCTAD sections of the medium-term plan for the period 1992-1997, as contained in document A/47/6 (Prog.13), (Prog.14) and (Prog.15);

2. Adopts the amendments to the proposed revisions as contained in the annex which appears in document TD/B/WP/L.65/Add.1;

3. Having discussed the question of prioritizing the subprogrammes, decides, in the light of the decisions taken recently at Cartagena on the reorientation of UNCTAD's work and the lack of time for broad consultations, that the matter of priority setting is for the whole membership of UNCTAD to determine; proposes that the question be further addressed after consideration by all States members of UNCTAD at the next session of the Trade and Development Board [, as provided by para. 67 of the Cartagena Commitment];

B. Technical cooperation

4. Takes note with appreciation of the report on technical cooperation activities of UNCTAD (TD/B/WP/76 and Add.1);

5. Welcomes the increase in the level of UNCTAD's technical cooperation activities over the past few years, the relevance and effectiveness of these activities and the cooperation between UNCTAD and other organizations undertaking technical cooperation in the areas of trade and development;

6. Reaffirms the recommendations of UNCTAD VIII to the effect that "UNCTAD's technical cooperation should be strengthened, expanded with the resources available and integrated into all relevant areas of UNCTAD's work";

7. Requests the secretariat to develop proposals for implementation in the new areas identified in the Cartagena Commitment, bearing in mind the resources available and the need for balanced distribution of activities among various geographical regions and countries, particularly least developed, land-locked and island developing countries, as provided by the Paris Programme of Action for the LDCs for the 1990s;

8. Invites UNDP to continue to provide support for UNCTAD's inter-country technical cooperation and appeals to the UNDP Governing Council, in its mid-term review of the Fifth Programming Cycle (1992 - 1996) to consider restoring the proportionate level of resources allocated for regional programmes;

9. Welcomes the increased support from a growing number of member States and organizations for UNCTAD's technical cooperation programmes and expresses its appreciation to those member States and donors who have increased their support in this regard;

10. Invites bilateral donors, multilateral agencies and all member States who are in a position to do so to increase the level of their extrabudgetary contributions to UNCTAD for technical cooperation, particularly for the purposes outlined at UNCTAD VIII;

11. Acknowledges the appreciation expressed by recipient countries for the support provided by UNDP and UNCTAD in the negotiations for the Uruguay Round; and their desire (a) that this support be continued until the end of the Round, including the evaluation of its results, as recommended in the Punta del Este declaration, and (b) that UNDP and UNCTAD continue their support to developing countries in the implementation phase of the results of the Uruguay Round;

12. Welcomes the increased operationality of UNCTAD's computerized management and information systems and requests the secretariat to evaluate, maintain and update the corresponding data bases and disseminate these systems to developing countries and other member States, including to economic operators;

C. Programme evaluation

13. Welcomes the report of the Secretary-General of UNCTAD on programme evaluation, as contained in document TD/B/WP/77, invites the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to pursue the work in this area, and requests the Secretary-General of UNCTAD to continue the practice of reporting the results of its evaluation studies to the relevant UNCTAD intergovernmental machinery.